

## THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method of transporting a liquid product down a vertical conduit having an inlet provided at the top of the conduit and an outlet provided at the bottom of the conduit, which method comprises feeding the liquid product into the inlet of the conduit and contacting the liquid product with means for dissipating potential energy released by the liquid product as it is transported down the conduit so that turbulence in the liquid product at the outlet of the conduit is reduced.
- 10 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the conduit is a pipe.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the pipe is from 100 to 300 mm in diameter.
- 15 4. A method according to claim 2, wherein the pipe is from 100 to 600 m in length.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid product is an emulsion explosive.
- 20 6. A method according to claim 5, wherein no change in viscosity of the emulsion explosive is observed after transportation of the emulsion explosive down the conduit.
7. A method according to claim 5, wherein the droplet size of the emulsion explosive is unaffected by transportation down the conduit.
- 25 8. A method according to claim 5, wherein before being transported the emulsion explosive has a viscosity of from 2,000 to 200,000 cP at 25°C.
9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the means for dissipating potential energy is an energy dissipating device which prevents potential energy associated with the liquid product from being converted to kinetic energy within the liquid product.

- 8 -

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the means for dissipating potential energy does not cause heating of the liquid product.
- 5 11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the means for dissipating potential energy is a pump or turbine the mechanism of which is actuated by movement of the liquid product through the pump or turbine and/or by contact of the liquid product with components of the pump or turbine.
- 10 12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the potential energy released by the liquid product is converted to electrical, mechanical and/or hydraulic energy by the pump or turbine and dissipated in this form.
- 15 13. A method according to claim 1, wherein the means for dissipating potential energy is provided at the bottom of the conduit close to the outlet thereof.
14. A method according to claim 5, wherein the emulsion explosive is being transported from a surface storage facility to an underground storage facility.